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osque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines If our friends who favor us with manuscripts

ublication wish to have rejected articles returned, the

#### Who Is Concerned in the Attempt to Undermine Gov. Taft?

Once again we get shadowy reports from Manila by way of Washington that the condition of Governor WILLIAM HOWARD TAPT'S health may make it imbesible for him to continue the splendid work which he is doing in those American islands for the good of the Filipinos and the future of our flag. Coincident with these reports of the

Governor's physical disability, and coindent also with the departure of Gen. LEONARD WOOD for the Philippines on an extended tour, preliminary to his assumption of command in the military department of Mindanao, we get from Washington in semi-official form a peculiarly earnest denial of an alleged rumor that Wood's real mission is to supersed TAFF, sooner or later.

We say an alleged rumor, for so far as we are aware no distinct report that Gen. Wood was to be Governor TAFT'S successor had previously found its way to the public. The alleged rumor goes forth from Washington astride of the denial itself. The form of the denial, as elegraphed yesterday on the reported authority of the War Department, is such as to attract attention and excite interest. The denial manages somehow to convey the impression that Governor TAPT's state of health is so precarjous that his resignation is imminent; that it is not an astonishing thing that people should be expecting to see the rmer Military Governor of Cuba replacing Governor TAFT in supreme charge of the affairs of the archipelago; that this supposition is all natural enough, but is not in accordance with the official facts. "Gen. WOOD," says yesterday's despatch, "is not to become Governor of the Philippines as successor to Governor TAFT, even should the illness of the latter cause his resignation." The despatch proceeds to emphasize the statement that Gen. Wood goes out in a purely

military capacity.

Indeed, Gen. LEONARD WOOD'S last published words before sailing from Boston on Saturday were devoted to a imilar attempt to prevent any mistaken les of the magnitude of the responsibilties swaiting him on the other side of the earth. " I am going to the Philippines," he said, "simply as a soldier "-a declaration seemingly unnecessary unsurprised at his assignment to a remote and subordinate, military post so soon after occupying the much more important administrative station which he held in Cuba.

is not diminished by another circumstance to which we shall refer.

Several months ago President Roosegenerously urged upon Governor Tar a nomination to the Supreme Court f the United States, to succeed Justice SHIRAS. The judicial office in question is thoroughly suited to the Governor's personal tastes and, as is generally un-derstood, it has long been the object of his honorable ambition. Acceptance then would have provided him with honorable and congenial employment on the highest Federal bench for the resainder of his life. It would have renoved him from the dangers of a climate hich had already uttered its warning to him in a most intelligible way. He could have come home from the Philipince at that time with all the honor due to an achievement unmatched in the nation's history, the successful organization of American civil government ten thousand miles from Washington upon foundation of confidence among the Filipinos in the sincerity, the justice and the integrity of American intentions with respect to them.

Yet Governor TAFT resolved to let the pportunity presented to him by Mr. ROOSEVELT go by, and to stay at his post at Manila. He did this for no other on than because he knew better than man here that the work in which heart and soul were enlisted was not yet complete. He must have known ow far the permanent success of the difficult experiment committed to his hands depended upon a continuity of the administration which was fast wining the confidence and friendship of the native elements. He must have foresen, more clearly than could possibly ve been foreseen even at Washington that his recall from the islands at that ne would have been misinterpreted by the Filipinos and regarded as evince of a change of intentions and policy concerning them on the part of the Govnent at Washington. In fact, no ner did the report reach Manila that ere was a possibility of Governor TATT's departure than there was a great ar demonstration at Manila callupon him to remain, a demand in thich the Tagalog element was connis. Six thousand Filipinos of all itical parties and religious faiths united in begging him to stay, and petiafter petition, representing the nearly unahimous opinion of the natives. went to Washington in protest against

Therefore Governor TAFT elected to temain, against his own interests, and lely in the interest of the work which has become a duty to him-the uplifting of the Filipinos into the ways of peace and toward self-government. It was in no sense because the Governor regarded elf as indispensable or magnified his individual importance; but the key to

the future was the fact that, in the minds of the people with whose welfare he was charged, the ability and intent of Amerian rule to bring good to the islands had come to be represented in a considerable degree in his person and by his continued presence among them. Another Governor would have had to do much of the work over again.

It is no exaggeration to say that seldom has there been so unselfish a choice be-tween difficult duty and attractive opportunity. There can be no doubt that a nature like President ROOSEVELT's fully understood and warmly appreciated the nobility of Governor Tarr's decision to remain in the Philippines.

We have dwelt upon this incident of the last months of 1902 because that was the time chosen for an attack upon Governor TAFT personally, upon the Philippine Commission of which he is chief, and upon the whole system of civil government in the islands, by a writer who had been close to Gen. LEONARD WOOD'S person during the latter's service at Santiago and at Havana, and one of the principal newspaper promoters of his reputation as a successful insular ad-

ministrator. The author of the remarkable book called " As It Is in the Philippines," ED-GAR G. BELLAIRS, describes himself as correspondent of the Associated Press, Cuba, 1898-1900; China, 1900-1901; Philippines, 1901-1902," a period covering five years of stirring events. He prefaces his remarks upon conditions in the Philippines with this self-granted certificate of his competency to observe accurately and criticise impartially:

"As the chief correspondent of the Associate Press in the Philippines, I was probably in a better position to get at the real facts as they existed in the provinces than anybody else in the Archipelago: better than the civil authorities, for they relied entirely upon the local Governors; better than th military authorities, as their reports were entirely from army officers."

The book purports to state the " real facts as they existed in the Philippines in the first and second years of civil government there; and especially to record the observer's judgment of the personal qualifications of Governor TAFT and his associates and the results of their system of administration.

The conclusions of Mr. EDGAR G BELLAIRS are represented by him as agreeing substantially with those of the army men in the islands; for he dedicates his book as follows:

> " To the OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN

of the UNITED STATES FORCES, VOLUNTEERS AND REGULARS. Who served in the Philippines, with the firm

conviction that the views of the large majority ARE EXPRESSED IN THIS VOLUME."

Mr. BELLAIRS's views, in short, are that partly through inherent conditions and partly on account of the shiftiness, insincerity and lack of executive ability on the part of Governor TAFT and his colleagues, civil government is a dismal failure in the Philippines; and that what the islands need is an autocratic government run by a military man of experience in similar undertakings. He devotes 263 pages to the demonstration of this proposition. Of Governor TAFT individually he says

on page 14: Anybody who has met Governor Tarr know him to be a smiling, courteous, susve gentleman, greeting one with a cordial handshake and cheery words, making the caller think he is the one individual that the Governor has been anxious to meet, good terms with oneself. . . Governor TAPT s an able lawyer, but without the highest grade of executive ability; at least, if he has it, it has no been developed in the Philippines. . . . Pron a social point of view, the Governor fills the position admirably, and the majority of Americans in the Philippines who have come in contact with him admit that he is a most agreeable man, even if his

romises or his sincerity are not certain to be real. " Just as Governor TAPT was about to leave for America on the transport and as the different people who had come aboard to bid him good-by were leaving the ship, Governor TAPT shook hands with member of the Municipal Board and in his cheery way wished him well and hoped to find him in the same position or a better one when he re turned from the United States. Governor TAPE himself, only two days before, had arranged with Acting Governor WRIGHT that this man's resignation was to be asked for, and his successor had ajready been approached on the subject of accept

position. "A few weeks after the arrival of the author in he Philippines he received a letter from a newspaper friend who urged him to be very careful in icaling with Governor TAPT, for the writer had seen letters in which TAFT had urged that influence be used to remove a certain correspondent from the Philippines, as he was too young and had too many friends among military men: while all the time to the man in question he was saying that when the time came for him to leave he did not know what the Commission would do, and whe he did leave gave him a letter containing the most glowing tributes to his personality and the work

The other members of the Commission are rapidly sketched and thrown aside. The Hon. LUKE E. WRIGHT " did not make an unqualified success of his administration as acting Governor." Commissioner Moses was "a sort of fifth wheel to the coach." Commissioner IDE is a man of very dignified personality. and from that point of view lends a great deal of prestige to the Commission." The Hon, DEAN WORCESTER " is a character, and what he does not know about the vertebræ of a butterfly, the habits of an ant or the breeding of a rooster is not worth knowing. He is also an expert on automobiles." the Commission as a whole:

"Attacks have been made at certain times on the honesty and integrity and even the morality of some members of the Commission: but there seems but little to base such charges upon: at all event pourt. There is little doubt that their honesty is irreproachable, but honesty and incompetence do not constitute a good government, though probably a better one than would dishonesty and ability.

We have given these specimens of Mr. EDGAR G. BELLAIRS'S somewhat unfavorable judgment of Governor TAFT's personal sincerity, rectitude of policy and executive ability, because the apparent purpose of the book is to educate American opinion to the idea that what the Philippines need most is the replacement of the present Governor by a successo thus described on page 21:

"Compare the government of the Philippin Archipelago for twelve months by Governor Tar and his associates with an equal length of time in Cuba under Gen. Woop. The difference is as great | admitted to be the most monotonous

And again, in summing up, on page 245: " Governor TAPE is not the man Vor the place t has always been a mystery to the author why such a successful form of government as was con ducted in Cube was not duplicated in the Philip Surely, it was impossible that the reaso was that there was no man in the country willing to take the position the equal of Gen. Wood. Able as that gentleman is, surely his peer could have been found to do a similar work in the Philippine clago. Such a man as Governor of the Philippines, neither civil nor military, but Governor pure and simple, with a Filipino cabinet, on the same ines as the one Gen. Wood had in Cubs, would have been infinitely more satisfactory to the natives, and unquestionably more so to the Americans.

"The difference between TAPT and Wood is that the former is a politician and a 'trimmer,' while the latter is a diplomat and a statesman, and it is to be hoped that, in American Interests, such a man as LEONARD WOOD will succeed TAPT in the Philippines, and such a government as was founded in Cube will succeed the present top heavy organiza-

The author of these observations was Gen. Wood's friend and literary promoter both at Santiago and at Havana. He was one of the agents of the attack of Major-Gen. JOHN R. BROOKE which resulted in his removal from the Governorship, and thereby a vacancy to which Gen. Wood was speedily assigned. He went out to the Philippines, as we understand, carrying personal letters of introduction from Gen. Wood to high army officers in the Archipelago. There seems no doubt that he has served Gen. Wood ndustriously.

But who is this principal agent of an attempt to undermine Governor TAFT's reputation here in the United States, and to prepare the people of the United States to regard Gen. Wood as the right man to govern the Philippines? Who is BEL-LAIRS, the defamer of WILLIAM H. TAPT and the eulogist of LEONARD WOOD?

### Municipal Ownership.

Philadelphia tried "municipal ownership " in gas making for street lighting for forty-two years. It abandoned it in 1897, when the annual loss was \$150,000. and leased its plant and contracts to a business corporation for a period of thirty years, ending Dec. 31, 1927, the company agreeing to supply the city, without charge, for public buildings, street lamps and squares, with an addition of 300 street lamps each year, to expend \$5,000,000 for necessary alterations and improvements, and to contribute to the city treasury 10 cents for every 1,000 cubic feet of gas sold. The expenses for gas in Philadelphia under municipal ownership were \$2,900,000 in 1897-much more, relatively, than New York is expending. Under municipal ownership the payrolls carried a number of sinecures for political workers, there was no reserve fund for betterments and renewals, the city's original investment of several millions of dollars was returning no interest and the gas furnished was poor. The abandonment of the " plant, after its operation since 1855, was generally approved and there has been no demand for a return to the old system. As a matter of fact, Philadelphia is now considering a proposition to transfer its water works to a private company.

In December, 1887, Chicago openedits first municipal lighting station. It has had municipal ownership for fifteen years. In Chicago the cost for city illumination is \$400,000, less than \$1 a head; in New York the cost is more than \$500,-000, less per year than # a head. But this does not measure the whole difference. In New York " plants " of gas and electric companies which have large real estate holdings are taxed. Where the city owns the " plant " it is, of course. exempt, and the acquisition by purchase of all the gas works in the GreaterNew York would cost the city not only what it paid for them directly, but an additional amount in diminished taxes.

# Another Hired Girls' Union

The hired girls of Pittsburg have folowed the example of their sisters in Chicago and some other capitals of progress and formed a union for their common defence and general welfare. These unions of hired girls are not subject to that disease or mania of so many other labor organizations. They use only peace ful means. If the cook strikes for higher wages or privileges and her ultimatum is rejected by her employer, she packs up and leaves, shaking the dust of the kitchen from her defiant feet and marching gayly to the intelligence office, where she will probably get a better " situation " without any trouble. She doesn't lurk about the area door, armed with a brick or a butcher knife, and intimidate or injure her "scab" successor. She doesn't have to, and she wouldn't if she had to. Employers are many and servants few. Servants, " maids." let us say in the more delicate Chicago phrase. can't help being proud; and " matrons have to be humble. So the evolution of the hired girls' union can be watched without quivering, save, perhaps, in the pocket nerve.

In the matter of wages, these Pittsburg unionists have little or less to complain of. They are not grumbling about their food or their lodging. The " maid " is better off in proportion than anybody else and saves more money; or would were she less generous to her relatives. But the mere fact of having nothing to complain of is motive enough for complaint. And the "maids" do have grievances. Their work never ceases They demand " regular " hours; and how is the demand to be resisted? There must be kitchen hours as well as office hours, and the great principle of eight hours a day is as applicable to women as to men. As Madame MARGUERITE CLINE used to warble to the reverberant heavens:

" I've worked eight hours to-day. And I think I've carned me pay.

And I won't work another minute longer. The Pittsburg hired girls cry for fewer hours in and more "days out." Why not? Holidays are becoming more numerous. Legislators seem eager to make the world work less. As it improves, it will work less. Some believers in human perfectibility hold that work will be abolished ultimately if not sooner. Meanwhile let us have as many " days off as we can. Domestic labor is generally form of labor. In asking for more rest and variety, the Pittsburg maids are not exorbitant. They are keeping step with

the march of evolution.

Another plank in the Pittsburg platform is a "demand" that the employer set apart a portion of the house for the entertainment of the friends and guest of the hired girl. This plank has pro duced a large area of gooseflesh among employers, especially if they live in little houses or belong to the innumerable host of dwellers in apartment houses, "flatters," so to speak. "Where are we going?" ask the "flatters" with nale lips. "We haven't got room enough for ourselves. Will the hired girl turn us out into the street?" Why not? We have pondered this subject deeply for a long time and think there is but one course open to " maid " and " matron.' The Pittsburg platform is mute as to the means of satisfying the "demand" for a separate part of the house or flat, a re-gion dedicated to the friends of the hired girl or girls. On account of the idiotic impenetrability of matter the problem seems insoluble, at least so far as flats are concerned. But there is a way out of the difficulty. The employer's family must take a "day out" every week. The whole house or flat must be left in charge of the hired girl. While the employing family is in the house she cannot have a feeling of independence or be sure that her guests are wholly without a sense of constraint. Change of scene and diet will do the employing family good. It will be more appreciative of home comforts when it comes back. For its own good and the convenience of the hired girl, it should take this "day out' whether it wants to or not. Such an outing is as necessary to one party as to the other; and while the employer has the outing, the maid will have her inning.

A " day out " for the employer once week, and perhaps an additional afternoon "out" once or twice a month in order to allow the hired girl to give an afternoon tea, will smooth the social relations of the hired girl and employer, and prevent friction.

### The Mortgage Tax Bill.

The hearing on the Mortgage Tax bill that occurred in Albany on Tuesday proved that its backers were equipped with no argument that could live for a moment before the weighty condemnation heard from the representatives of the important interests concerned. Senator ALLDS, who had been put forward to defend the bill, was silenced almost immediately. So utterly resourceless and impotent was the defence that we are constrained to believe that Senator PLATT spoke the truth yesterday when in denying that there was anything but harmony between himself and Governor ODELL he said that the Governor agreed with him fully that the measure question was a bad bill.

The bill was brought forward originally because Governor ODELL, although always a business man, has become a doctrinaire on the subject of taxation, and for some inscrutable reason has been striken with an ambition to abolish the direct tax. His prejudice for that theory has led him to adopt a measure which, instead of simplifying taxation here, would add enormously to its complications and difficulties, and hence is a firstclass measure to lav away.

## Motor Bicyclists to the Front.

The Scovel Automobile law recently in New Jersey places motor bicyclists, who are becoming numerous in these parts, in a somewhat ludicrous predicament. The first section of this

"Whenever the term 'motor vehicle' is used in this act it shall be construed to include automobiles ocomobiles and all other vehicles propelled other wise than by muscular power, excepting the cars of electric and steam rallways and other motor vehicles running only upon rails or tracks; but nothing in this act contained shall be construed to apply to or affect bicycles, tricycles or such other vehicles as are propelled exclusively by muscular

The motor bicycle, although provided with pedals, is not propelled "exclusively" by muscle; hence it is, clearly, subject to the Scovel law. This means that every motor cyclist who runs his machine in New Jersey, whether he is a resident of that State or not, must make the necessary declaration as to the precise " character " of his vehicle and his ability to operate it, and pay \$1 to the Secretary of State for a certificate of license; must display the number of this license conspicuously in "numerals not less than three inches in height" upon the rear of his machine; must carry at night two large white lights visible at least 200 feet ahead and one red light visible from behind must display his license number on each of the white lights; must comply with the law as regards " efficient brakes " and signal devices; must stop his machine and "remain stationary" upon signal from the driver of a horse or horses coming toward him until the horse or horses have passed, and must also obey all the law's requirements as to speed, as if his machine weighed 3,000 pounds and cost \$10,000.

For failure to obtain a license or to comply with other requirements of the law a motor cyclist may be fined from \$10 to \$100 or imprisoned in the county jail for a period not exceeding ten, twenty and thirty days, as the case may be.

While the motor cyclists have slept the lawmakers of New Jersey have been busy, and, perhaps, hasty. It remains to be seen what the motor cyclists will do about it.

The recent loss of the navy tug Leyden on the coast of Block Island was the occasion of several acts of heroism and pluck on the part of the crew, which the Navy Department. on the recommendation of Rear Admiral TAYLOR, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, intends to recognize. MICHAEL WALSH, chief machinist, stayed in the engine room until the water was waist deep, drawing the fires and opening the bleeders, or release cocks, thus preventing the boilers from ex-ploding, and to him a medal of honor will be given. P. TETTAND, Quartermaster, attempted to get a line ashore, as did L. STUPKA, gunner, and E. H. BJORKMAN, ordinary seaman, and they will receive medals of honor. F. Johnson, boilermaker, and L. STERNBERGER, who got lines up from the flooded berth deck and tried get them ashore, are to receive letters of

dation, and so is C. T. NYSTRON who kept his trick at the wheel so long a there was any chance of the ship's minding her halrs. These names indicate Celts and Scandinavians mostly, but they belong to the sort of men we are glad to have in the

American navv.

We have had \* panic \* years and \* boom years in our financial circles, but 1903 promises to be remembered chiefly as the "raid Judge GORMAN of Philadelphia has jus said, obiter, in a case of prosecution under the Sunday blue law of 1794 that a newspaper is not a mere luxury but a "necessity." Sound law this, and yet from another point of view a newspaper, such as THE Sun for example, is the most delightful of Shamrock III.'s second day out strengthen the impression that she is really good. It will be a grand race.

American League grounds at 166th street is plainly strike upon the new baseball enterprise, and a foul strike. The petitioners should be declared "out," and the League nine be permitted to have its innings without further trouble. Pound for pound, young Mr. TERENCE McGovern may have been a shade better than young Mr. CORBETT, but, unfortunate-

The effort to get streets cut through the

CORBETT demonstrated at the same time that a cool head is always a dangerous antagonist for a hot fist.

The Irish and "McPadden's Plate."

ly for TERRY, there were about five pounds

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Kindly permit me a word on the Stage Irishman. It is but clouding the issue to refer to the mimi-cry of various nationalities indulged in by some of our versatile artists in the variety theatres. No body of Irishmen would think of objecting to these more or dess good-natured and harmless "sketches," even if the impersonation of the Irishman is more erally is. It is simply not true to say that the erally is. It is simply not true to say that the German or Jew or any other is caricatured so persistently and to the same outrageous extent as the Irishman. I could mention off-hand a dozen "plays" of the present time, besides the one which caused the trouble on Friday night, devoted wholly or largely to gross misrepresentation of the character of that race. I do not think any can be pointed out consisting entirely or mainly of carica-

out consisting entirely or mainly of carica-tures of any other race. The general use of the term "Stage Irishman" sustains these statements. There is nothing heard of the "Stage Englishman" or "Stage Italian." These productions present the Irish gen-erally not only as little like human beings in supportance as possible but as bestial in charappearance as possible, but as bestial in character and habits. The pseudo humor is simply idiocy, and the "brogue" is as false as the other features, and is absurd. Not content with gross caricatures of the men, these abominations resort to slanderous misrepresontation of Irish women. They are outrageous insults to every Irishman who cherishes pride of race, who honors his countrywomen, and who desires that his family will not be wanting in that foundation of character, self-respect. It may be said that Irish people need not go to theatres which harbor these productions, but that would not avail much, as the hideous lithographs appear on every fence and wall. This stage-frishman business originated in England with the deliberate design of misrepresenting and ridiculing the Irish people, for obvious reasons. These productions were very popular there, in the early part of the last century particularly, but they are not so now. The United States enjoys an unenviable isolation in this respect. I do not think, however, as your correspondent, "Irish-American, seems to intimate, that the "American public requires that low and vulgar insuits to a race, which constitutes an important factor in its own make-up, be served up continuously as a tid-bit for its amusement. In any event, the movement, for such it is, against these insults will go on, and what has happened with gross caricatures of the men, these abom-

own make-up, be served up continuously as a tid-bit for its amusement. In any event, the movement, for such it is, against these insults will go on, and what has happened at San Francisco, Springfield, Mass., Waterbury. New York and Philadelphia, will happen elsewhere—if need be, although, perhaps, minus the poultry and vegetable display, which the latter two places "threw in."

As to the law of the case, it frequently happens that persons, while keeping; within the letter of the law, incite to violation of it, and it is so with the stage Irishman managers. All the statutes in the United States could not enforce the undoubted right of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" to play in certain parts of the South, nor would all the law books and police of Canada guarantee the right of the "Nathan South, nor would all the law books and police of Canada guarantee the right of the "Nathan Hale" company to continue unmolested its recently attempted and abandoned tour of that country. Besides, there are effective ways of protesting against the nuisance, which in my opinion a test of the law would sustain, by vocal and not missile demonstration. In any event, I believe the weight of right and ethics is on the side even of a lawless protest in this case if the evil will not down otherwise. This true, the protest comes late. But centuries of slavery leave their mark upon a people, and they have upon ours. One or two of your correspondents upon this subject have betrayed that. In the general wreck of the national life, the race almost lost its own language, its traditions, knowledge of its own history, and consequently its self-respect. So astute an observer as The Sun cannot fail to note the change, however, which has recently occurred. The Gaelic movement is a psychological one, and not merely philological or antiquarian. Not the least among its manifestations is the return of self-respect, national and individual.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In answer to"A Loyal Irishwoman," I would strongly suggest the withdrawal of the word "Loyal," and instead (as that word is so applicable to a certain body of Irishmen who are hirelings of the British Government), for loyalty, in her

case, is a thing of the past.

How a woman in this "enlightened age" with any sense of decency or morality can visit a playhouse and see her "own" countrywomen held up to ridicule, represented as the vilest, lowest, most degraded people on the face of God's earth to-day, is a profound mystery to me, and will remain so.

I have been raised in Ireland and I've never

seen an Irishman yet with "green whiskers," nor have I seen them sleeping in the same

nor have I seen them sleeping in the same room "with a pig."

Shame on the glory of our Clan-ne-Gaels or our Ancient Order of Hibernians, if they can't prevent this shameful portrayal of our Irishmen and women and the calumny to which we are nightly subjected. All honor to them, when they can! Success to them, ever! I dare say, they are the rowdies she has particular reference to.

Evidently this "Loyal Irishwoman" has no children of her own. Heaven pity the poor creatures, with such a missuided mother, if she has any!

Would she, willingly, have innocent minds corrupted, pure souls defiled, by allowing them to enter a theatre where drunkenness, combined with immorality, forms a distinguishing feature of those midnight orgies.

Yes: "A Loyal Irishwoman," to quietly look on such a degraded scene, and when our Clan-na-Gaels have justly endeavored to put those wretches to shame. She comes forward boldly and "takes up the cudgel" on their behalf, giving vent to her downright ismorance, and airing it also in the columns of The Sun. How could she dare to malign those men who have courage to uphold our honor, the honor of Ireland's women?

No matter how vile and pitless her soul is, I hope she will in future be content with gossip among her own "Loyal Irishwomen" (I trust they are few), and not use the columns of such a paper as The Sun is.

To the Editor of The Sun—Sir: Being an

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Being an eyewitness of the most disgraceful actions of the Irish rowdies who almost created a panic at the theatre where an Irish farce wa performed, I must admit I was surprised there were not lives lost. If this is what my there were not lives lost. If this is what my countrymen call a good cause all I can say is that they are mistaken. No good Irish citizen will approve of the actions of the so-called loafers, who almost caused a riot in a theatre with thousands of people—mothers with their children—who at any moment may have been trampled to death at the actions of a few hot-headed fools who disgrace the Irish race.

A GOOD LEBH CITIZEN

NEW YORK, MARCH 31.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: Your correspondent, "T. L. M.," says the sensitiveness of the Irish about their race is not a mushroom growth of to-day or yesterday. He is right.

Fiuelies—Captain Macmorris, I think, look you, under your correction, there is not many of your nation—
Capt. Macmorris—Of my nation! What ish my nation! What ish my nation! Who talks of my nation! What ish my nation! Who talks of my nation as a knave, and a rascal.—Henry V., Act S. Scene 2. NEW YORK, April 1.

THE MORTGAGE TAX BILL.

Practical Objections Based on a Minute

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The ad vocates of the Mortgage Tax bill say this act will reach the lender of money and take from him the tax. Not so. The man who borrows will pay, so this will put an additional tax on the man whose necessities require him to borrow. It will be done this way. Ninety per cent of existing mortgages are due or can cent, of existing mortgages are due or can be called. They will be called and new mort-gages executed for a higher rate of interest by one half of one per cent. Where the mortgage is less than 6 per cent. If at 6 per cent., which is the rule regarding farm lands, the mortgage will be called and the farmer will be called upon to pay the charges of the lender's lawyer for preparing an agreement of extension of the mortgage for one year or for a new mortgage for one year. In these charges will be included the State tax. This will be repeated each year, casting upon the borrower each year the additional expense of lawyers and

recording fees.

Attention is called to the onerous duties put upon holders of mortgages by this act, and the great expense. The mortgage holders must first examine the "list" or send a careful lawyer who will have to stand in line for hours,

more of CORBETT. They decided the battle.

and the great expense. The mortgage holders must first examine the "list" or send a careful lawyer who will have to stand in line for hours, as there is but one official list, before he can get the information necessary.

Then a carefully prepared appeal must be prepared in triplicate by a lawyer, if any error appears, and many such will be found, as the full amount of principal of all mortgages must be entered on the list, no matter what payments have been made on account of principal. All owners of lands upon which unsatisfied mortgages appear must petition to have them marked obsolete. If the holder cannot do this in person he must sign a power of attorney to some trusty person to sign for him and pay for this. If the mortgage has given the mortgage and the State tax has not been paid, the mortgage or a satisfaction piece of the mortgage and the State tax has not been paid, the mortgage or an then pay the taxes, record his satisfaction piece and sue the mortgage for the tax, interest at 10 per cent. costs of attorneys and counsel fees and all his expenses.

This provision, section 30s, will stop the great majority of persons who invest in mortgages from so doing. It is simply vicious. The lowest estimate of the expense which this act will put upon the holders of mortgages is \$25. Notice the requirements regarding appeals to Albany! Exacting in the expense and requiring personal examinations of the list, the record and the mortgages by careful persons, necessarily lawyers, all to be paid for. It is wrong in principle for the State to single out any specific form of security to tax. If four mills is exacted, why not a larger amount each year?

Mortgages who are not in the city must deposit there all papers with lawyers to attend to everything for them, as these papers must be produced under section 301.

The worst feature of this bill is the certainty that the owner of land will get into disputes with the State Board of Tax Commissioners, and until they are settled he cannot get his mortgage at sified of recor

the investment in mortgages. It complicates dealings in real property and adds another heavy burden to that already heavily taxed species of property, real estate. This bill should not pass. John H. Judge. New York, March 31.

#### Dutchman Would Be German.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Speaking of Germany being covetous to take Denmark and Holland, I. as a Hollander, am in favor of Germany, for sooner or later we in Holland man States have done since 1866, and they are JACOB DE BRUIN. NEW YORK, March 39.

### "Thanking You in Advance."

TO THE FUITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Allow me to protest through your columns against the impertinent, indolent and generally inept custom of finishing a note of request with the words "thanking you in advance."
You can't thank a man for a favor you are not sure he will grant. You have no right to assume that he will grant it until you have heard from him. And you have no business to ask it if you can't take time to write a second note to acknowledge it. If you thank a man in advance, why shouldn't you ask him to return stamp for the letter you have written?

INGRATUS. custom of finishing a note of request with

### The American Boy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I think I am afe in saying that "H. M. M.," who writes in today's Sun of the American boy, was never an Ameri-can boy himself. "Boys will be boys," and there is no need to adopt more stringent measures with them than are ordinarily employed with them now.

I deny that a vicious boy invariably makes vicious man; a boy is by nature vicious, which can not be said of men. The local authority, says "H. M. M.," sympathizes with the boy, remembering his own boyish pranks. Therefore he who was once "vicious" himself now occupies a judicial p he did not "make a vicious man."

## A Taxparer on City Pensions

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In disapprov ing of bad bills in the Legislature I falled to see THE SUN include the Pension for City Employees After Twenty-five Years' Service. Most of these sinecurists were appointed through politics—very few passing an examination. They all praise civil service rules now that they are in, but always damn them when an examination. They all praise civil service rules now that they are in, but always damn them when they are out of office. They are all overpaid, very few being able to earn laborers' wages when they get out of office. These positions are so desirable that thousands apply for a few vacancies. Hours, a to 4 and 12 o'clock on Saturday, with full pay for all holidays, conventions, sickness, &c. Why should I as a property owner and taxpayer support these men? Let them support themselves.

I will be one of a committee to to go the Albany Legislature if a delegation of property owners should go to oppose this selfish measure. This bill may become a law, as many of our legislators generally wind up in a sinecure after they cease to be statesmen. This last reason may cause the members of the Legislature to pass this bill. A pension would be very nice after twenty five years of warming a chair. Another thing, taxpayers, a very large corruption fund could be raised to pass this bill if necessary. Every sinecurist in the city would contribute.

I trust this will be published so our taxpayers can see what may cost them considerable.

New YORE, March 28.

J. H. LEONBAUSER.

Pajamas and Journalism.

TO THE POITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Mr. Hamlir sell did not tell the real reason why pajamas are vere rejuctant to get out of bed to answer a late interviewer, or else wasted his valuable time while they put on clothes. Now when a man has a fancy outfit of pajamas, and especially silk pajamas, he does not hesitate to jump out of bed and display his gaudy nightles to the reporter in the hall, the library or the reception room.

Palamas are a factor of success in midnight interviewing. That is my experience; but I have
always regarded it as indelicate to work them into e resultant story. NEWARK, N. J., March 30.

To the Shadash.

Oh Shad. It is too bad That you are not built on the plan Of the banan', The pitless gem Of Pomona's fruitful diadem By gad, If you didn't have any more bones Than the banana has seed, To feed On your felicitous fishiness would Be such an eestatic good Thing, that all mankind. Would go it blind, And so stuff and stuff and stuff And stuff Himself with you before he had enough And scatter his fragments all around. Say, Perhaps you are not built that way

uch on accident. It would be wretchedly bad Form for a whole tableful of guests To explode before they had got Any further along with the dinner . Than the fish. Wouldn't it? However, bones or no bones. We want to say We are glad to have you The king everywhere, of the ball of fare.

NEWS OF JAPAN.

Opposition Triumph at the General Elec-

Toxio, March . The general election which took place a week a o in consequence of the dissolution of the popular branch of the Legislature last December has resulted in a decisive victory for the Opposition parties. Of the latter there are two, the Constitutionalists (Seiyu-kai) and the Progressives (Shimpo-to), the former led by Marquis Ito and the latter by Count Okuma. Estimates differ as to the exact strength of these parties in the new House of Repre-sentatives, but the most reliable in my opinion is that which accords 193 to the Constitutionalists and 86 to the Progressives. The total number of seats in the House being 376, it will be observed that the Constitutionalists alone command an absolute ma-jority of 10, which will be increased to 182 in case the two parties combine together as they did in the last session. In any case it is evident that the Cabinet

has suffered a crushing defeat in its appeal to the country over the question of the ways and means for the proposed increase of the navy. It may be remembered that in the last winter session of the Imperial Diet, a collision was precipitated between the Cabinet and the majority in the lower house as to the source whence funds should be provided for the new naval scheme involving an expenditure of a little over 100,000,000 yen in ten years. The Government proposed to provide the re-quired money by making permanent an extra taxation on land originally voted for a period of five years, which is to expire in ess than twelve months from now. This met with a strong opposition from the parties named above, which insisted that the new naval scheme should be financed partly by the postponement of some of the numer ous public works, but principally by reforms in the administrative and financial systems of the country. As to the necessity of increasing the navy, there was a perfect unanimity of opinion in the Diet, the only point at issue being the ways and means. In opposing the Government's proposal to perpetuate the increased land tax the Oppo-sition never contended that the burden was too heavy for the farmers. They admitted that the latter were perfectly capable of paying even more. But they argued, and I believe with justice, that it would be the height of folly to get by taxation what could be easily procured by a policy of

height of folly to get by taxation what could be easily procured by a policy of economy.

By their votes at the general election just concluded, the people have plainly indicated their preference for the policy advocated by the Opposition parties. From this your readers would doubtless infer at once that the Ministry have got now to step out of office and give place to men in whom the country has just declared its trust. Such, indeed, is the view taken in party circles here. But it is far from certain that such will be the result of the present situation. It has to be remembered that there is a strong body of opinion in bureaucratic and conservative circles against the introduction of anything savoring of party government. This opinion is theoretically supported by the Constitution, which makes the Ministers of State responsible to the Emperor and not to the Diet. The Ministry now in power happens to be composed for the most part of men holding this view of government. Some of them were a defiant in their attitude a few weeks ago that they openly threatened to dissolve the House of Representatives any number of times until they get what they want. Since then, however, a more reasonable temper seems to prevail in Cabinet circles, and hopes are entertained that, in recognition of the clearly expressed wishes of the country, the Ministers will quietly go out of office and thus afford a chance to the Opposition leaders to carry out their mandate newly received from the people. But the situation is just now so full of uncertainties that he would be a bold man who would wenture to predict the outcome one way or the other. It will not, however, be long before some definite development takes place, for the new seesion of the Diet is to meet some time in May.

Besides politics, the question now occupying a good deal of attention is the famine in the northeastern portion of the main island of Japan, where the crop of rice was in many places almost nil on account of the inclement weather of last summer and autumn.

What I

autumn.

What I want to say about this famine, and what has attracted widespread, notice and grateful admiration among the Japanese people, was the prompt and hearty manner in which the foreign community in this country has responded to the call of the call nese people, was the prompt and hearry manner in which the foreign community in this country has responded to the call of charity. The subscription list opened by the leading members of the foreign society at Yokohama has been rapidly filled with substantial sums, and their example has been followed in all other trade ports, the result being already a goodly sum of money which is being very judiciously disbursed among the needy by a special delegate sent by the trustees of the fund. The foreign residents have indeed been so prompt in taking the matter up that they have even anticipated the Japanese public. The latter, whose apparent indifference until some time ago has been matter of some comment, has also waked up to the needs of the case, and subscriptions are beginning to pour into the offices of many of the leading journals here, headed by the Jiji and the Nichi Nichi. The conspicuous part taken by the foreign public of Japan in the present work of succor is producing a most excellent impression among the Japanese. M. Zumoro.

# From the Japan Weekly Mail.

In the middle of last month Viceroy Chang In the middle of last month Viceroy Chang Chih-tung held a grand review of all the modern drifled forces in the Yangtse provinces, together with the Nanyang and a part of the Pelyang naval squadrons. As a military and naval display the affair, though comparatively petty in dimensions, appeara to have been successful. But its effects upon the population of the district were disastrous. What happened is thus described by a correspondent of the North China Dailu News:

It was a sham battle, but to the natives occupying the country to the east and south of the forts and battle lines it was a very serious affair. Absolute panic seized the whole population.

A map of the whole section was specially made

by the Viceroy's men, occupying many days before the review took place. The map-makers indus-triously spread the report that Chang Kung-pao had asked for 400,000 taels from Gen. Li, and been re-fused. Therefore, he was coming with all his forces to thrash Li and his army. Soldiers were arriving from about the 10th in increasing numbers up to the 14th instant. The night of Friday, the 15th, the Vice-roy arrived. The saluting that took place on his arrival was the beginning of a fearful struggle to the ignorant farmers. By Saturday morning the price of rice in the city had fallen 600 cash per picul—in the country in many places, as much as 2,000 cash per picul. By 4 P. M. in a large section of country it was half price as compared with two days before. Chickens, pigs and cows were being offered in the same way, but fortunately people there were few buyers.

So great was the panic that suicide was resorted parents to run the faster. Sunday morning your correspondent rode ten miles through deserted villages and country hamlets. There was scarcely one in a hundred of the ordinary population left. The soldiers in the line added to the panie by repeated declarations that there was to be a battle and they would use real bullets. The sick, in many cases, were deserted; and in many others exposure aggravated the diseases with the worst

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Str: Referring to the letter in THE SUN of the 29th inst., "Worries of the National Guard," and signed "A Non-Com.," in which he states that, "in the Thirteenth a warrant officer has to be a veritable prizefighter," &c., I beg the space to reply and state that the accusation is absolutely false, and request the writer to verify this statement. I have been a "Non-Com." of the Thirteenth for two years and have never found it necessary to enforce commands by prizering

methods.

The writer of the article, which is probably inspired by a dislike of the Thirteenth's rapid advancement to the front, evidently has not the courage of his convictions, nor belief in the truth of them, or he would not be so (we will call it) timid as to forget his own name and sign himself a "Non-Com."

New York, March 30.